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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/840,982	04/25/2001	Gerd Hugo	24580	5343
7590	10/05/2004			EXAMINER
Gary M. Nath NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC 6th Floor 1030 15th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20005			MANLOVE, SHALIE A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1755	
DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/840,982	HUGO, GERD	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shalie A. Manlove	1755	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/21/04
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-11 and 18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 12-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 4/25/2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/21/2001.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-16 in the reply filed on August 2, 2004 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that examining the case would not present a serious burden to the Examiner. This is not found persuasive because the different classification of each group is *prima facie* evidence of a serious burden and didn't show restrictions in error. With respect to species of binders, the synthetic resin binders are classified in different art areas as compared to natural resins. With respect to species of pigments, inorganic pigments, organic pigment and metallic pigments are classified independently from each other. A thorough search of each of the inventions would not necessarily be coextensive and therefore would constitute a serious burden if not restricted.
2. The Examiner is treating all the binders and the second pigments as not being patentably distinct but as obvious variants based on Applicant's election.
3. Claims 8-11 are withdrawn because the claims are drawn to a non-elected invention.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claims 1-7, and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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6. In claims 1-7, and 12-16, the term "coating", as such is indefinite and misdescriptive. Ex parte Scott 66 USPQ 371. It is unclear as to what is being claimed, composition or coated article.

7. Claims 1-2, 5, 7 and 13 are merely setting forth physical characteristics desired in article, and not setting forth specific compositions which meet such characteristics, are invalid as vague, indefinite, and functional since they cover any conceivable combination of ingredients either presently existing or which might be discovered in the future and which would impart desired characteristics. Ex parte Slob (PO BdApp) 157 USPQ 172

8. In claim 3, what is meant by "on the basis of"?

9. Claim 12 does not further limit because claim 1 recites composition of the pigments while claim 12 recites orientation of the pigments.

10. Claim 14 recites the limitation "additional pigments" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

The Examiner has chosen to treat claims as if drawn to a composition.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

11. Claims 1-2, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Binns et al US 6,287,377.

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Binns discloses in the abstract as well as in claim 5 a tinting concentrate comprising a pigment, colorant, tinting agent, and /or metal effect agent and a latex or emulsion.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shalie A. Manlove whose telephone number is (571) 272-1372. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 6:30 -4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark L. Bell can be reached on (571) 272-1362. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shalie A. Manlove
Examiner
Art Unit 1755

September 11, 2004


C. MELISSA KOSLOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER